



# EPI WATCH

### Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County

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### Division of Disease Control and Health Protection

#### Disease Reporting

To report diseases and clusters of illness:

Phone: (727) 824-6932

Fax: (727) 820-4270 (excluding HIV/AIDS)

To report HIV/AIDS by mail:

Surveillance Room 3-138

205 Dr. MLK Jr St. N.

St. Petersburg, FL 33701

#### Possible Rabies Exposure/

Animal Bite Reports:

Phone: (727) 524-4410

x7665



## 'Tis the Holiday Season for Norovirus

By Ashley Joseph, MPH

#### Protect Yourself from Norovirus!

- Wash your hands often
- Wash fruits & vegetables
- Cook shellfish thoroughly
- Clean surfaces & wash laundry
- When you're sick, don't prepare food or care for others

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[www.cdc.gov/Norovirus](http://www.cdc.gov/Norovirus)



Norovirus is caused by non-enveloped, single-stranded RNA viruses of the genus *Norovirus*. A virulent illness, norovirus can affect anyone at any age and continues to be the leading cause of illness and outbreaks from contaminated food in the United States.<sup>1,2</sup> Infections from Norovirus may either be asymptomatic or may cause acute and severe gastroenteritis which includes symptoms of diarrhea, abdominal pain, nausea and/or vomiting 12 to 48 hours after exposure. Symptoms can lead to dehydration, therefore, oral rehydration with liquids may be recommended. Transmission of norovirus occurs primarily through fecal-oral route via person-to-person contact, indirectly through contaminated food or water and can even spread by contaminated environmental surfaces and objects.<sup>3</sup>

Approximately 20 million individuals become ill from norovirus each year, with 70% of affected food workers contributing to outbreaks from contaminated food.<sup>2</sup> Norovirus infections occur year-round, but activity peaks during the winter.<sup>3</sup> Outbreaks of the virus often occur in close quarter settings, affecting vulnerable populations, such as young children and older adults.

Prevention and control measures are key to mitigating the transmission of norovirus. Ill persons, especially food handlers, are discouraged from handling and preparing food for others for at least two days after symptoms subside.<sup>4</sup> Because noroviruses are resistant to temperatures as high as 140°F, properly heating food and disposing of contaminated foods is important. Washing hands properly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds remains the most effective measure for controlling the spread of the virus. Prevention measures, such as increased disinfection of contaminated surfaces and lavatories with a solution of domestic bleach (5-25 tablespoons bleach per gallon of water) is encouraged,<sup>4</sup> since the virus can remain in the stool for two weeks or longer following recovery.<sup>4</sup>

Individual cases of norovirus are not nationally notifiable; although, any outbreaks of acute gastroenteritis should be reported to the local or state health departments.

#### References

1. U.S Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2016, June 24). Norovirus. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/norovirus/about/transmission.html>.
2. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2014, June 3). Preventing Norovirus Outbreaks. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/norovirus/index.html>.
3. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2017, May 31). Yellow Book. Retrieved from <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2018/infectious-diseases-related-to-travel/norovirus>.
4. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2016, June 24). Preventing Norovirus Infection. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/norovirus/preventing-infection.html>.

## Outbreak: Multistate Outbreak of Multidrug-Resistant *Campylobacter* Infections Linked to Contact with Pet Store Puppies

*Campylobacter* is a gram-negative bacterium that is most frequently transmitted to humans by handling raw poultry or eating undercooked poultry meat. *Campylobacter* can be transmitted to humans by contact with contaminated feces, such as changing a person's diaper or sexual contact with an infected person; however, it can also be transmitted by mammals, including dogs and cats. While animals may act as asymptomatic hosts, *campylobacter* infections can cause severe illness in puppies and kittens. Common symptoms of infection in animals include vomiting and diarrhea.



Source: <http://www.cutestpaw.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/christmas-puppy.jpg>

As of October 23, 2017, 67 people were identified within the United States with multi-drug resistant *campylobacter* that has been linked to contact with puppies from a national chain pet store, Petland. Cases were located across 15 states, including Florida. Eighteen cases were Petland employees and 44 cases were customers who had come in contact with puppies from Petland.

Among 10 clinical isolates, all were resistant to azithromycin, ciprofloxacin, clindamycin, erythromycin, nalidixic acid, telithromycin, and tetracycline, eight of the isolates were resistant to gentamicin and two to florfenicol.

Preventive measures that can be taken when handling animals include washing hands thoroughly after touching animals, use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available, and do not allow pets to lick around people's mouths and faces. If animals are ill, wash areas they occupy using a bleach and water solution and contaminated linens with hot water and dry on high heat.

More information on the *campylobacter* outbreak and updated case counts can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/campylobacter/outbreaks/puppies-9-17/index.html#petowners>

### References:

1. Centers for Disease Control. (2017). Multistate Outbreak of Multidrug-Resistant *Campylobacter* Infections Linked to Contact with Pet Store Puppies. <https://www.cdc.gov/campylobacter/outbreaks/puppies-9-17/index.html#petowners>

## Yellow Fever Vaccine Shortages

Yellow Fever is a flavivirus that is endemic in sub-Saharan Africa and South America. Most infected individuals remain asymptomatic, while others may develop mild symptoms. However, among the 15% who do develop severe symptoms, the case-fatality ratio is 20%-50%. Symptoms include high fever, jaundice, bleeding, shock and multi-organ failure.<sup>1</sup> There is no specific treatment for yellow fever and patients should be hospitalized with supportive care. The three mechanisms for prevention of yellow fever include a robust human and non-human primate surveillance system that can readily identify outbreaks, program readiness to respond to and control outbreaks, and mass vaccination campaigns in endemic regions.<sup>2</sup>

As of mid-2017, due to manufacturing problems, there is a shortage (expected to lead to complete depletion) of the YF-VAX yellow fever vaccine in the United States.<sup>1</sup> This is the only FDA-approved vaccine for yellow fever at this time. In order to address this shortage and protect traveler safety, the Food and Drug Administration and Sanofi Pasteur are importing an alternative vaccine that is comparable in safety and efficacy to the U.S. licensed vaccine, as an investigational new drug. Thus the alternative vaccine, Stamaril, will be available in select locations which may be found at <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellow-fever-vaccination-clinics/search>. An expected challenge for travelers will be the limited number of locations approved to distribute the vaccine.



Source: [https://www.cdc.gov/yellowfever/maps/south\\_america.html](https://www.cdc.gov/yellowfever/maps/south_america.html)

### References:

1. Gershman MD, Angelo KM, Ritchey J, et al. Addressing a Yellow Fever Vaccine Shortage — United States, 2016–2017. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2017;66:457–459. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6617e2>
2. World Health Organization. (2017). Eliminate Yellow fever Epidemics (EYE): a global strategy, 2017-2026. *Weekly Epidemiological Record*. 16: 193-204.

# Selected Reportable Diseases in Pinellas County

Disease	Pinellas		YTD Total		Pinellas County Annual Totals		
	November 2017	November 2016	Pinellas 2017	Florida 2017	2016	2015	2014
<b>A. Vaccine Preventable</b>							
Measles	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Mumps	0	0	2	54	0	0	0
Pertussis	1	0	31	336	18	17	19
Varicella	5	4	22	594	74	38	35
<b>B. CNS Diseases &amp; Bacteremias</b>							
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)	0	0	2	26	2	3	0
Meningitis (Bacterial, Cryptococcal, Mycotic)	0	0	7	103	7	6	4
Meningococcal Disease	0	0	0	21	0	1	0
<b>C. Enteric Infections</b>							
Campylobacteriosis	13	13	186	3958	146	104	103
Cryptosporidiosis	4	1	37	507	27	49	240
Cyclosporiasis	0	0	6	111	5	3	0
<i>E. coli</i> Shiga Toxin (+)	0	0	6	125	3	2	6
Giardiasis	4	2	43	923	41	30	42
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)	0	0	0	10	0	0	0
Listeriosis	0	0	0	49	2	2	0
Salmonellosis	19	24	256	6034	188	196	216
Shigellosis	0	0	21	1198	19	174	21
<b>D. Viral Hepatitis</b>							
Hepatitis A	0	0	0	247	2	4	2
Hepatitis B: Pregnant Woman +HBsAg	1	1	25	435	28	37	21
Hepatitis B, Acute	5	7	44	712	68	57	44
Hepatitis C, Acute	3	4	27	368	49	32	19
<b>E. VectorBorne/Zoonoses</b>							
Animal Rabies	0	0	2	25	4	1	2
Rabies, possible exposure	7	11	126	3120	131	114	190
Chikungunya Fever	0	0	0	3	1	2	10
Dengue	0	0	0	26	2	3	1
Eastern Equine Encephalitis	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Lyme Disease	1	0	15	194	11	6	5
Malaria	0	0	0	51	0	2	3
West Nile Virus	0	0	0	6	1	1	0
<b>F. Others</b>							
Chlamydia	330	333	3653	n/a	4084	4168	3853
Gonorrhea	113	116	1377	n/a	1560	1439	1295
Hansen's Disease	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lead Poisoning	2	1	27	631	32	40	62
Legionellosis	5	1	22	415	19	18	13
Mercury Poisoning	0	0	1	46	0	1	2
Syphilis, Total	14	26	304	n/a	400	289	186
Syphilis, Infectious (Primary and Secondary)	6	14	136	n/a	187	151	75
Syphilis, Early Latent	5	7	103	n/a	144	83	61
Syphilis, Congenital	0	0	1	n/a	2	3	0
Syphilis, Late Syphilis (Late Latent; Neurosyphilis )	3	5	64	n/a	68	52	50
Tuberculosis	1	7	27	n/a	31	14	25
<i>Vibrio</i> Infections	1	0	9	246	8	11	10

n/a = not available at this time. Reportable diseases include confirmed and probable cases only. All case counts are provisional. Data is collected from the Merlin Reportable Disease database, surveillance systems maintained at the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County, and Florida CHARTS <http://www.floridacharts.com/charts/default.aspx>.

\*STD data in PRISM is continually updated. Please note, data from the previous month takes up to an additional month or more to be correctly updated.

\* Florida tracks cases of HIV/AIDS. For the most up to date data, please visit: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/aids/surveillance/index.html>